

Appln. No. 09/865,394
Response dated Aug. 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005
Docket No. 6169-200

IBM Docket No. BOC9-2000-0064

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of April 4, 2005 (Office Action). This response is filed after the 3-month shortened statutory period, and as such, a retroactive extension of time is hereby requested. The Examiner is authorized to charge the appropriate extension fee to Deposit Account 50-0951.

Applicants, as an initial matter, wish to thank the Examiner for correctly noting at Page 2 of the Office Action that the application is eligible for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and for having entered Applicants' amendment of May 24, 2004.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, and 12-20 are pending. In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, and 12-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,046,742 to Chari (hereinafter Chari).

I. Applicant's Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain features of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited reference. One embodiment of the invention is a node exposing method. The method includes providing, by request to a plurality of software agents, references to a plurality of nodes, wherein each node is associated with a display element displayable in a display map. Each display element corresponding to a node is capable of simultaneously displaying a plurality of attributes for its associated node. Accordingly, each display element can display attributes – represented, for example, as data metric values or other information – corresponding to each component or entity of a

Appl. No. 09/865,394

Response dated Aug. 5, 2005

Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

Docket No. 6169-200

IBM Docket No. BOC9-2000-0064

heterogeneous system being monitored. (See, e.g., Specification, p. 12, lines 2-5; see also p. 12, line 17 – p. 13, line 5.)

At least one such data metric can be received from associated components by one of the agents, according to the method, and each agent can compute at least one updated value in response to receiving the data metrics. The method also includes updating at least one of the display elements in the display map with the updated values received from the agents.

II. The Claims Define Over Chari

As already noted, each of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chari. Chari is directed to a method for organizing and displaying management information regarding hardware and software components in a computer-based network. (Col 6, lines 28-37; Abstract.) In contrast to Applicants' invention, Chari provides component-related information arranged as hierarchical data structures. (Col. 4, lines 42-58.) As repeatedly emphasized in the reference, Chari's display of data is a display of *hierarchical data*; that is, data whose structure is organized into "a plurality of hierarchical levels". (Col. 4, lines 45-47.) Accordingly, each component, or node, representation in Chari corresponds to multiple objects, each having a particular value. This difference regarding the nature of the data corresponding to system nodes results in major differences between Chari and Applicants' invention, both with respect to the way data is represented and the way it is displayed.

Appln. No. 09/865,394
Response dated Aug. 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005
Docket No. 6169-200

IBM Docket No. BOC9-2000-0064

Chari does not expressly or inherently teach, for example, representing a node as a single object with multiple attributes (e.g., metric data) bound to the single object displayed. Accordingly, Chari also does not expressly or inherently teach providing a display element that is capable of simultaneously displaying a plurality of attributes of an associated node, as recited in each of independent Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, and 10, as amended.

In response to Applicants' earlier argument, it is stated at page 9 of the Office Action that "Chari illustrates, as shown for example in Figure 6, [a] plurality of system nodes displayed in a two-dimensional plane." Applicants readily agree that any display on a typical flat-surface computer screen is, of course, a display in a two-dimensional plane. However, Applicant respectfully maintains that the issue is not the display itself, but rather the *information or data* that is displayed. As already noted, the hierarchical nature of the data structure in Chari dictates a sequential, hierarchical display of component or node data that is itself hierarchical in nature.

More particularly, Chari's use of a hierarchical data structure is why each node in Chari is singularly represented. To examine the attributes of a node with Chari, one must proceed down a "tree," each branch of which corresponds to a different attribute level. (Col. 11, lines 9-23.) For a system whose nodes include a plurality of clients and a server, Chari provides a sequential, hierarchical display for each node. (Col. 6, lines 35-61; FIG. 1.) The attributes of the server, for example, are individually examined, each being a branch of the tree corresponding to the single node. The sequence illustratively starts at a

Appln. No. 09/865,394

IBM Docket No. BOC9-2000-0064

Response dated Aug. 5, 2005

Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

Docket No. 6169-200

sub-layer devoted to the dual in-line memory modules (DIMMs). (FIGs. 14 and 15.) The cooling system of the server is next viewed in a sequence of displays that correspond to respective branches for a plurality of fans, and temperature sensors. (FIGs 16 and 17.) Further branching along the hierarchical tree provides displays for individual fans and individual sensors. (FIGs 18 and 19; 20 and 21.) Continued branching along the tree corresponding to the server, or system node, yields similar displays of hierarchical data pertaining to the server. (FIGs 22 – 39.)

Chari's hierarchical sequence of displays for a single system component or node stands in sharp contrast to Applicants' invention in which each node has a corresponding display element that is capable of simultaneously displaying a plurality of attributes associated with a particular node. As specifically illustrated in the exemplary display of FIG. 2 of the Application, Applicants' invention allows a user to simultaneously view not only a plurality of nodes juxtaposed with one another in the same display, but also a plurality of attributes corresponding to each of the nodes. This is an advantage not achieved with Chari. As explained, above, Chari provides no such display of multiple, juxtaposed components. Nor does Chari expressly or inherently teach that multiple attributes on such a node can be simultaneously viewed. Instead, Chari provides for each component a sequential hierarchy of displays; each attribute is viewed sequentially according to a particular hierarchy, not simultaneously.

Appln. No. 09/865,394
Response dated Aug. 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005
Docket No. 6169-200

IBM Docket No. BOC9-2000-0064

It follows that Chari does not expressly or inherently teach each of the features recited in independent Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, and 10. Applicants respectfully assert, therefore, that the prior art fails to anticipate any of the amended independent claims. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that, because each of the remaining claims depends from one of these independent claims while reciting additional features, the remaining claims likewise are not anticipated by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, and 12-20 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 5, 2005



Gregory A. Nelson, Registration No. 30,577

Richard A. Hinson, Registration No. 47,652

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

Customer No. 40987

Post Office Box 3188

West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188

Telephone: (561) 653-5000